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OUTWARD BOUND

A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FOR THOSE EN ROUTE TO
INDIA AND THE FAR EAST

THE WAR OFFICE,
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FOR THOSE EN ROUTE TO
INDIA AND THE FAR EAST

This booklet has been prepared on the instructions of the Adjutant-General. It is a guide to those who expect to be sent to the Far East and provides as simply as possible the official answers to a number of questions which are often asked about conditions en route to and in the Far Eastern theatre.

THE WAR OFFICE
1911

QUESTION 1 (a):

How long does it take by sea to get to India?

ANSWER:

Time taken on a sea voyage from U.K. to India varies considerably with the individual ships now that it is no longer necessary for transports to run together in convoy. This journey time may be anything from 15 to 24 days; but the average time for the voyage is 21 days. (Further details about trooping by sea to India will be found in Appendix A.)

QUESTION 1 (b):

How long does it take by air to get to India?

ANSWER:

On the present plans for Air Trooping the time taken from the airport in the U.K. to the airport in Karachi is 4 to 5 days. Current arrangements provide for one day's hop to the Middle East with a stop of 48 hours there, and then another day's hop to Karachi. Timings of the Air Troopings are, of course, subject to delays caused by weather, etc.

(Further details about trooping to India by air will be found in Appendix B.)

QUESTION 2:

Where do troops go on arrival in India?

ANSWER:

(a) Complete units join a formation in India, or may possibly pass through India and join a formation in A.L.F.S.E.A.

(b) Reinforcements go to the Base Depot belonging to their Arm of the Service: the Infantry Depot is at Kalyan (some 50 miles from Bombay), the R.A. Depot is at Deolali (some 200 miles from Bombay); men in the other Arms of the Service go to other Depots. After about a week at their Base Depot, reinforcements will normally be sent on a short training course (at present at Ranchi, about 350 miles N.W. of Calcutta), after which they join units in India or are sent to Reinforcement Holding units.

QUESTION 3:

What leave is given?

ANSWER:

The following leave is given in India and A.L.F.S.E.A.:—

Up to 28 days a year. At present this must be taken in one period and includes travelling time within the Indian border, but no troops get less than 21 days at leave destination.

In addition, it may be possible to grant casual leave up to 10 days if the man can be spared.

QUESTION 4:

Where do troops generally spend their leave?

ANSWER:

(a) The majority of troops both in India and from A.L.F.S.E.A. spend their leave in special camps in various parts of India, *e.g.*, Darjeeling, Punjab Hills, Nilgiris, Secunderabad, Bangalore, Ranchi, Poona and Bombay. Leave Hostels also exist in larger cities such as Calcutta and Bombay, and many Europeans put up soldiers on leave at their own houses, though to a limited extent owing to the small number of European residents.

(b) Special leave hostels for officers, male and female, exist in most of the hill stations and larger centres throughout India.

QUESTION 5:

How long does it take to send a parcel home?

ANSWER:

All parcels at present go by sea and normally take six to eight weeks to U.K. plus a short period for clearance through customs and delivery within U.K.

Average times are:—From India	...	...	...	8 weeks
From Burma	...	...	...	9 weeks
From further East	...	...	...	10 weeks

QUESTION 6:

How long does it take to send a letter home?

ANSWER:

Between 7 to 12 days by air, depending upon location. Bad weather may, however, cause delays up to a further week or so.

Average times are:—From India	...	...	...	7 days
From Burma	...	...	...	9 days
From further East	...	...	...	12 days

QUESTION 7:

Which is the quickest way to send a letter?

ANSWER:

All letters up to one ounce in weight are carried by air, free of postage. Those weighing more than one ounce are sent by sea unless an Air Mail label is affixed and postage at the rate of 6d. for each additional $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce or fraction of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce is prepaid.

QUESTION 8:

How long is period of service in India and S.E.A.C.?

ANSWER:

(a) The present "target qualifying period" for reversion to the home establishment under PYTHON is three years and four months measured from the date of embarkation from U.K. to the date of embarkation from the Far East, but any previous overseas service will count towards this three years and four months provided it has not been broken by an aggregate period of six months on the home establishment.

(b) The "target qualifying period" is that after which it is hoped to effect repatriation. Immediate repatriation on completion of the qualifying period can never be guaranteed as replacements and/or shipping may not always be available; also a man may be held back beyond his qualifying period at the discretion of the C.-in-C. on the grounds of operational necessity, but this is only done in cases of real necessity.

(c) Service in these theatres in no way affects a soldier's right to release when his age and service group becomes due.

QUESTION 9:

What are the methods with which troops can overcome illnesses?

ANSWER:

The chief diseases which can be avoided by care and the precautions taken by the individual are as follows:—

Malaria, Dysentery, Foot Rot, Scrub Typhus, V.D. and minor septic conditions.

For the prevention of these diseases the soldier must:—

(i) listen carefully to the advice given by the medical authorities and thereby learn the cause of these diseases, their effect, and the methods of protection against them;

(ii) take the greatest care in obeying the Hygiene Orders issued.

QUESTION 10:

What is the best way of dealing with snakes? Any other large animal trouble?

ANSWER:

(a) Snakes are essentially shy and never attack a man unless surprised. Although there are plenty of snakes in Burma there have been no reported cases of snake bite in our armies there.

(b) There is little or no danger from wild animals.

QUESTION 11:

What pay do I get as an Infantry Pte., Cpl., Sjt.? (a) In a British regt.? (b) In an Indian regt.?

ANSWER:

(a) and (b) Details of pay of British Service troops in India are at Appendix C.

QUESTION 12:

How many cigarettes a day do troops get?

ANSWER:

Cigarettes (or tobacco in lieu of them) are issued free as part of the S.T. ration to British troops as follows:—

- (a) India.—50 cigarettes or 2 ozs. of tobacco weekly.
- (b) S.E.A.C.—The issue varies according to the situation of the troops, the "Forward" scale for troops out of touch with canteen facilities is 100 cigarettes or 4 ozs. of tobacco weekly. Those in Base, Rear and some L. of C. units get 50 cigarettes or 2 ozs. of tobacco weekly.

In addition to the free issue there is a further supply of cigarettes as generous as circumstances permit for purchase by soldiers from N.A.A.F.I. and other canteens or clubs.

QUESTION 13:

What are the N.A.A.F.I. arrangements?

ANSWER:

N.A.A.F.I. does not operate everywhere in the Far East theatre and notably not in INDIA. Canteen Services in BURMA are starting to be taken over by N.A.A.F.I. in January, 1946, and N.A.A.F.I. already operate in Malaya, Hong Kong, Ceylon and Dutch East Indies. Bulk Issue Store Service is being provided, supplemented by mobile canteens and full N.A.A.F.I. canteens and Club services at suitable locations as conditions allow.

QUESTION 14:

What brands of beer are available? What does half a pint cost?

ANSWER:

(a) Beer for overseas theatres is of special export quality and may come from U.K. or Canada. In addition, local production is used as much as possible. Although no particular brand is

allocated to any one theatre, the beer is certainly as good or better than the beer that is available to civilians in U.K.

(b) N.A.A.F.I. prices for imported beer are as follows:—

A 12 oz. bottle (reputed pint)	9d.
A 24 oz. bottle (reputed quart)	1s. 5d.

Note.—A reputed quart bottle is the measure given in an English public-house when a pint of beer is asked for.

(c) There is a world shortage of beer, and, at present, it is only possible to provide about 2 reputed quart bottles per man per week. The aim is, however, to reach an allocation of 3 reputed quart bottles per man per week, and it is hoped that this figure may be reached shortly.

QUESTION 15:

Can wives go to India?

ANSWER:

A limited number of military families are now permitted to join their husbands in India.

The following families only are eligible:—

- (a) Those of officers and other ranks of the Regular Army.
- (b) Those of other military personnel who have 2 years or more overseas service still to perform.
- (c) In extreme compassionate cases where the husband is seriously ill and cannot be brought home and where the wife's presence would help his recovery.

Compassionate cases, when eligible, take priority over all others excepting those where the War Office has decided that the family's presence is necessary for official reasons.

Passages are at public expense but it must be realised that at present only a limited number can be arranged.

QUESTION 16:

What entertainments are provided?

ANSWER:

Concert Parties of various sizes are provided by E.N.S.A. and Stars in Battledress. It is, of course, only possible for the smaller parties to visit outlying units, but every effort is made to provide "live" entertainment for everyone as often as possible.

Mobile and static cinemas are in operation throughout India and S.E.A.C. Static cinemas are, of course, only available in the larger centres, but mobile cinemas make frequent visits to more outlying units.

QUESTION 17:

What are the arrangements for getting news about home affairs, i.e., provision of newspapers and wireless sets?

ANSWER:

Wireless sets are provided on a large scale to all areas and units. Special overseas forces programmes are regularly transmitted by the B.B.C. and are relayed by local stations. In addition daily periods are allocated and transmitted by All India Radio specially for British forces in India and S.E.A.C.

Copies of all London Sunday newspapers are sent by air for distribution throughout India and S.E.A.C. The Army newspapers "Contact", "Weekly Review" and "S.E.A.C." (daily) are available to all units. A Special Forces Section of the Reuter News Service transmits up-to-date news on home affairs for publication in these newspapers.

QUESTION 18:

What are the arrangements for dealing with compassionate cases, i.e., serious trouble in home or business affairs?

ANSWER:

In all larger centres representatives of the Services Welfare Organizations, S.S.A.F.A., and incorporated Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society are available for advice and help. For other units the unit welfare or other officer will consider compassionate cases and arrange for them to be submitted through Army channels to the welfare societies if necessary. Special arrangements have been made for the rapid transmission of such enquiries and applications through Army channels.

APPENDIX A

TROOPING TO INDIA BY SEA

Transports vary a great deal and every ship has her own characteristics, but the following notes are applicable to all ships. Ships no longer sail in convoy and the average duration of the voyage from U.K. to Bombay *via* the Suez Canal is three weeks.

Accommodation.

In order to transport to India the numbers of men needed out there to perform the tasks of occupation, and to relieve men due for repatriation and release, troopships have to be filled with far more men than they were ever intended to carry. Many ships now used as transports were built as liners, so much of the accommodation on them has to be of a makeshift kind, and crowding and a certain amount of discomfort cannot be avoided. In order to improve conditions in the Red Sea, most ships carry smaller numbers from Suez onwards.

In some ships the troops mess and sleep (in hammocks) in the same troop decks; in others the troop decks are filled with tiers of bunks (called "standees") and there are separate mess decks, with messing on the cafeteria system.

Officers and warrant officers are accommodated in cabins as far as possible, but they must be prepared to sleep in bunks or hammocks in troop deck accommodation.

Organization.

The military staff on board a troopship normally consists of an O.C. troops (who is a Lt.-Col.) and an Adjutant Q.M. (who is a Captain), a Medical Officer and an Executive Officer (a Major). The Executive Officer has been specially appointed to care for the welfare of the troops on board.

In addition, officers are normally appointed from those carried on board to supervise entertainments, sport, etc., and to be responsible for troop decks and sections of the ship.

Fresh water and washing of clothes.

Not a drop of fresh water must be wasted. Troopships have to carry far more troops than the normal number of peacetime passengers but the storage capacity is still about the same. Although fresh water is very restricted in issue troops operating in the Middle East got less than those in troopships. Troops can help to economize water by turning off taps properly after use.

There is always a difficulty as regards the washing of clothes on a long voyage. An issue of sea-water soap is made weekly and an allotment of time to wash clothes is made. If small squads are formed to wash clothes there is a great economy. In the rainy season—June to August—heavy rainstorms are encountered in the Indian Ocean and every opportunity should be taken of catching the water from the awnings and using it to wash clothes.

Ventilation.

A great deal has been done to improve the ventilation of H.M. Transports and the troops can help in this matter. Often they stow their kit in such a way that it stops up a blower or interferes with the working of a fan, often, again, they advertently or inadvertently turn off a blower. Men should not sleep with the draught from a blower or fan turned directly on to them and, however hot they may be, they should have their stomach covered. In hot weather a certain number of men are usually allowed to sleep on the open decks, chiefly in order to lessen the number sleeping below and so to improve the ventilation.

Latrines.

It frequently happens that early in the voyage latrines are choked by men using newspapers. This adds to the discomfort on board as latrines are only just sufficient if all are in working order. Only the paper provided must be used and the latrines must be properly flushed after use.

Sunbathing.

Exposure to the sun may cause severe burning if reasonable care is not taken. To accustom troops to working in hot climates organized sunbathing is recommended, commencing with very short periods.

Games, Sports and Recreation.

Committees will be formed to organize entertainment for the troops. This will include games, sports, concerts, tug-of-war, boxing, bands, theatricals, lectures, brains-trust and news; chess, cards, books, darts, deck quoits, deck tennis, physical training and community singing. As regards news, some ships have loud-speakers throughout, others only a very few. In the latter case, the ship will usually produce a number of typewritten copies for circulation amongst the troops and to post up on notice boards. The O.C. troops has a sum of money granted to him which he is allowed to give as prizes in the form of "orders on the canteen".

Mails.

It is not possible to arrange for delivery of mail to the troops whilst the ship is en route but facilities are available for all ranks to send air mail letters home at most ports of call.

Discipline.

O.C. troops is responsible for discipline on board and will delegate sections of the ship to various area commanders who will be drawn from officers travelling.

The ship's master is the final arbiter of what is required in regard to safety at sea and uses O.C. troops as his liaison to promulgate what is necessary in such matters.

APPENDIX B AIR TROOPING

United Kingdom.

The traveller first enters air trooping when he arrives from his depot or mobilization centre at the Air Trooping Centre, Cadogan Place, London.

Here his kit is checked, extra items are issued if necessary, both himself and his kit are weighed and his inoculations and vaccination dates confirmed. A medical examination takes place to ensure that he is fit to fly.

After approximately 48 hours at Cadogan Place he goes by train to any one of the nine air trooping airports which are located in a wide circle around London.

The Flight.

Yorks, Liberators and Dakotas are at present in use.

If the traveller finds himself in a York or Liberator he will leave the U.K. and fly non-stop to Castel Benito in North Africa, where after a stop of 2 hours and a hot meal he continues on to Cairo West (24 hours' halt), thence to Shaibah and Karachi.

If he is in a Dakota his route lies *via* Elmas in Sardinia and El Adem near Tobruk, stopping at both places for a meal, and on to Lydda.

At Lydda 24 hours are spent in a newly built transit camp set in the hills and amongst orange groves some twelve miles from the airport. The climate is perfect and facilities are provided for visiting Jerusalem and for bathing either in the swimming pool in the camp or at the fashionable Mediterranean resort of Tel Aviv.

On from Lydda the route lies across the desert to Baghdad and on past the ruins of Babylon to the great oil fields at Shaibah. After a stop there on again to the Island of Bahrein in the Persian Gulf, famous for its pearl fisheries, and after another stop the final hop to Karachi.

India.

The aircraft land at Mauripur in the middle of a large new transit camp some eight miles south of Karachi.

Here the traveller rests, gets his documents checked and money changed. The length of stay depends greatly on the traveller's final destination and whether the onward journey will be by air or rail.

The Air Trooping now divides and goes on to three terminals—Chakulia near Calcutta, Arkonam near Madras and Poona near Bombay. All three routes are full of interest, passing over typical Indian hills, deserts and villages.

At these terminals Air Trooping stops and any onward journey to China, Burma or Malaya is made by sea or the scheduled air transport services.

APPENDIX C

PAY OF BRITISH SOLDIERS IN INDIA

(Effective up to 30.6.46)

I. Daily rates.

Rank	(a) Basic Pay	(b) W.S.I.	(c) J.C.P.	(d) Rupee Concession	(e) Income Tax	(f) Total	Currency
Private, Cl. IA, 3 years' War Service.	5 0	1 0	1 0	0 10	—	7 10	Shillings and Pence.
	3 5	0 12	0 12	0 7	—	5 4	Rupees and Annas.
Corporal, 3 years' War Service.	6 0	1 0	1 3	1 0	—	9 2	Shillings and Pence.
	4 0	0 12	0 15	0 8	0 1	6 2	Rupees and Annas.
Serjeant, 3 years' total War Service.	7 0	1 6	1 6	1 3	0 5	10 10	Shillings and Pence.
	4 11	1 2	1 2	0 9	0 4	7 4	Rupees and Annas.

2. Notes.

(a) All calculations have been rounded to the nearest penny or anna.

(b) The figures shown are for an unmarried non-tradesman Pte., Cpl. and Sgt. of the classification and service stated. If the figures are adjusted for tradesmen or for shorter or longer service, an adjustment may also require to be made in the Income Tax column marked (e).

3. Income Tax.

Is at Indian rates, to which all emoluments are subject. The above rates are shown in sterling and rupees, converted at the normal of exchange of Rs.1 = 1s. 6d. (Rs.1 = As. 16, 1 = Ps. 12).

4. Allowances and Allotments.

Married men and men with Dependants' Allowance are required to make a Qualifying or Contributory Allotment from their basic pay in the same way as when serving at home. They may also make Voluntary Allotments in exactly the same way. Such allotments (with allowances) are payable in the United Kingdom in the normal way. The allotments are deducted from pay at the normal rate of exchange.

5. Far East Allowance.

British Service personnel serving in S.E.A.C. are NOT generally eligible for Far East Allowance.

6. Currency.

The above rates are shown in sterling and rupees. Pay drawn in S.E.A.C. will be in rupees. Pay undrawn or remitted to U.K. will be in sterling. The purchasing price of the rupee must NOT be taken to be represented by the rate of exchange it commands, though the Rupee Concession (column (d)) is intended to compensate for this.

7. Indian Army.

Generally speaking there are no British O.Rs. in an Indian Regiment. Indian O.Rs. receive pay on an entirely different basis from the British Pay Code. British O.Rs. may be attached to Indian units and formations, in which case, if serving in S.E.A.C., they would receive rates as above.